

After reading about the issue of localism in radio and television broadcasts, my initial response was that localizing news programs is essential in helping area residents, schools, churches and neighborhoods. After all, these programs highlight significant issues that affect the local community, thus increasing local awareness and allowing residents to get involved in community affairs. After living in South Bend, Indiana for four years, I realize that locally controlled programs can also more easily detail community events, such as Skyfest Michiana and other popular festivals, in addition to reflecting area demographic groups and upholding the value of local diversity and culture.

However, despite the benefits of localism, I wonder if the FCC is really helping local radio and television stations to stay in the business of serving the interests of their communities. I agree with Commissioner Michael J. Copps that national media giants are certainly taking over the industry, and failing to protect local media will only make today's public programming more standardized. This displeases me, as I think local shows should continue to incorporate the values of their local community, remain unique and diverse, and actually tell people what is going on around them.

Like Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, I admire Chairman Michael Powell's endeavors to enhance localism in today's radio and television broadcasts. Following my years at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, I plan to pursue a career in telecommunications, where I hope to write for a local broadcast station. As an African-American woman, I want local values and minority viewpoints to remain in local programming—not get absorbed by large national media companies. I certainly support the FCC's steps to protect local programs from unfair media ownership, as I desire that every local station remain as independent and diverse as possible.